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AMENDMENTS TO CLAIMS

The status of all claims and the text of pending claims, with markings to show current changes relative to the immediately prior version, follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A brush seal, comprising:
a back plate;
a side plate;
a first set of bristles; and
a second set of bristles between said first set of bristles and said side plate, said second set of bristles having a length and abutting said first set of bristles substantially along said length;
wherein said second set of bristles have a characteristic, different than said first set of bristles, that said first set of bristles extending further from the brush seal than said second set of bristles said side plate to reduces windage effects on said first set of bristles.
2. (Currently Amended) The brush seal of claim 1, wherein ~~said characteristic comprises~~ said second set of bristles being are more rigid than said first set of bristles.
3. (Currently Amended) The brush seal of claim 2, wherein ~~said characteristic comprises~~ bristles in said second set having have a larger diameter than bristles in said first set.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Original) The brush seal of claim 1, wherein said sets of bristles have non-interfering lay angles.
6. (Original) The brush seal of claim 2, wherein said first and second sets of bristles have first and second lay angles, respectively, and a difference between said first and second lay angles is between approximately -15° and 15°.
7. (Cancelled)

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8. (Currently Amended) The brush seal of claim 71, wherein said second set of bristles extends at least to said back plate.
9. (Original) The brush seal of claim 1, wherein said first and second sets of bristles comprise separate bristle packs.
10. (Original) The brush seal of claim 1, further comprising a windage cover.
11. (Currently Amended) A brush seal for sealing a gap between first and second components, comprising:
 - a back plate;
 - a side plate;
 - a set of contacting bristles that engages the second component; and
 - a set of non-contacting bristles that extends towards, but does not engage, the second component, said set of non-contacting bristles having a length;
 - wherein said set of non-contacting bristles resides between said set of contacting bristles and said side plate and abuts said set of contacting bristles substantially along said length.
12. (Original) The brush seal of claim 11, wherein said sets of bristles have non-interfering lay angles.
13. (Original) The brush seal of claim 12, wherein said sets of bristles have first and second lay angles, respectively, and a difference between said first and second lay angles is between approximately -15° and 15°.
14. (Original) The brush seal of claim 11, wherein said set of non-contacting bristles is more rigid than said set of contacting bristles.
15. (Original) The brush seal of claim 14, wherein bristles in said set of non-contacting bristles have a diameter larger than bristles in said set of contacting bristles.

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16. (Original) The brush seal of claim 11, further comprising a windage cover.
17. (Original) The brush seal of claim 11, wherein said set of contacting bristles and said set of non-contacting bristles comprise separate bristle packs.
18. (Original) The brush seal of claim 11, wherein said non-contacting bristles extends at least to said back plate.
19. (Cancelled)
20. (New) A method of making a brush seal, comprising the steps of:
providing a back plate, a side plate, a first set of bristles, and a second set of bristles having a length less than said first set of bristles; and
abutting said first set of bristles substantially along said length;
wherein said first set of bristles extends further from the brush seal than said second set of bristles to reduce windage effects on said first set of bristles.
21. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said second set of bristles are more rigid than said first set of bristles.
22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein bristles in said second set have a larger diameter than bristles in said first set.
23. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said sets of bristles have non-interfering lay angles.
24. (New) The method of claim 23, wherein said first and second sets of bristles have first and second lay angles, respectively, and a difference between said first and second lay angles is between approximately -15° and 15° .

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25. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said second set of bristles extends at least to said back plate.
26. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein said first and second sets of bristles comprise separate bristle packs.
27. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the providing step includes providing a windage cover.